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Message Text

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42
ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /078 W
---------- 116403
R 250907Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9458
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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STATE FOR CU/EE

USIA FOR RJE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC RO
SUBJ: EXCHANGES - MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA

REF: BUCHAREST 3184

1. EMBASSY CONCERN REGARDING CURRENT PROBLEMS IN EXCHANGE-OF-PERSONS FIELD OUTLINED REFTEL WERE DISCUSSED JULY 24 DURING MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR (ACCOMPANIED BY PAO AND CAO) AND DEPUTY FORMIN GLIGA. IN SUMMARY, GLIGA EMPHASIZED THAT GATHERING CLOUDS PROBABLY REFLECT "TECHNICAL" DIFFICULTIES AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ANY DELIBERATE OR ORCHESTRATED REFLECTION OF ROMANIAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH U.S.-ROMANIAN CULTURAL RELATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, HE POINTED OUT, THE ROMANIAN SIDE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THEIR EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND HOPED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW. SOME
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PROBLEMS, GLIGA NOTED, WERE TO BE EXPECTED AS THE RESULT OF

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ROMANIAN "DECENTRALIZATION" OF EXCHANGE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION INTO THE HANDS OF INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES.

2. GLIGA SPECIFICALLY NOTED, BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, THAT THE RECENT DEATH OF DEPUTY MICR TER OF EDUCATION ALEXE POPESCU, WHO HAD BEEN "AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER" OF EXCHANGE MATTERS HAD OBVIOUSLY SLOWED AND CONFUSED ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AT THE MINISTRY. GLIGA POINTED OUT THAT U.S. EXCHANGE MATTERS ARE ONLY ONE SMALL PART OF THE MYRIAD OF MINISTRY DUTIES ALTHOUGH THEY ARE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE EMBASSY. HE MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE TOO WAS CONCERNED BY THE REPORTS HE HAD HAD OF DELAYS ENCOUNTERED BY U.S. AND OTHER EMBASSIES AND HAD ALREADY SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR JULY 25 WITH EDUCATION MINISTRY AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICIALS TO TRY TO SPEED THINGS UP.

3. THE AMBASSADOR LEFT WITH GLIGA A LIST OF RECENT EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES (CITED REFTEL). GLIGA PROMISED TO TAKE THESE MATTERS UP WITH DEPUTY MINISTER POP AT THE MINISTRY OF EDU-CATION AND WITH OTHER ROMANIAN AGENCIES INVOLVED IN EXCHANGE MATTERS AND ADVISE THE EMBASSY OF THE RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS.

4. SIGNIFICANTLY, GLIGA INITIATED THE DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THOSE ATTRIBUTED IN REFTEL TO IOAN URSU AND MINISTERY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS CONCERNING ROMANIAN SCHOLARS WHO EXTEND THEIR GRANTS BEYOND THEIR OFFICIAL GRANT PERIOD OR WHO REMAIN ABORAD INDEFINITELY. GLIGA TERMED THIS "A DILEMMA" FOR ROMANIA SINCE THE COUNTRY NEEDS FOREIGN STUDY AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES YET AT THE SAME TIME DOES NOT HAVE "AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY" OF ACADEMIC TALENT. GLIGA ALSO CITED ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS FACED BY SCHOLARS WHO DO RETURN (AS, OF COURSE,
TTHE VAST MAJORITY DO.). IT SEEMS APPARENT IN THE
IN THE EMBASSY VIEW THAT SERIOUS CONCERN EXISTS ON THE ROMANIAN SIDE REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF SITUATIONS SUCH AS THOSE REPRESENTED SO WELL BY THDRECENT REQUEST OF 1973-74 SCHOLAR CONSTANTA MUSKWLAN TO EXTEND HER U.S. STAY FOR UP TO THREE ADDITIONAL YEARS.

5. EXCHANGE MATTERS WERE ALSO TOUCHED ON IN MEETING EARLIER
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JULY 24 WITH FORMIN MACOVESCU WHO STRESSED SIMILAR LINE THAT NO POLITICAL SIGNFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THESE "ISOLATED INSTANCES," MACOVESCU ALSO OFFERED ASSISTANCE OF MFA'S GOOD OFFICES IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHEN ADVISED OF DIFFICULTIES BY EMBASSY. WITH BOTH MACOVESCU AND GLIGA, AMBASSADOR TOOK APPROACH THAT HE WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT THERE WAS NO INTENT TO REDUCE CULTURAL EXCHANGESBUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION MIGHT BE FOR EACH CASE, THE OVERALL

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RESULT NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT INDEED CULTURAL CONTACTS
WERE BEING RESTRICTED BY ROMANIA.

6. DETAILS OF CONVERSATION RE IOWA INTERNATIONAL WRITING
PROGRAM AND PHOTOGRAPHY USA EXHIBIT ARE SUBJECT SEPTELS.
BARNES

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